



April 29, 2008

Via Facsimile and Regular Mail

Officer in Charge – BRAC
National Naval Medical Center
8901 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20889
Fax: (301) 295-5020

RE: Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Response to Final Environmental Impact Statement

Officer in Charge:

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute ("HHMI") appreciates the Navy's deliberative efforts in drafting a comprehensive Final Environmental Impact Statement ("FEIS"), which will guide the implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure ("BRAC") action at the National Naval Medical Center ("NNMC"). The FEIS is sensitive and responsive to many of the community's concerns about the BRAC move. As a neighbor in the immediate vicinity of NNMC, HHMI particularly appreciates the Navy's consideration of the concerns expressed by HHMI in its letter dated January 18, 2008.

The FEIS acknowledges the tremendous impact that BRAC will have on the area and provides meaningful recommendations and opportunities to address the impacts. Of note, the Navy's change of position on the community's eligibility for Defense Access Road ("DAR") funding is critical. It recognizes that traffic mitigation efforts outside of the NNMC campus are imperative for BRAC's overall mission to establish a state-of-the-art medical facility for our wounded military personnel. It also establishes the Navy as a partner in seeking and implementing the necessary mitigation solutions.

HHMI is also pleased that the FEIS recognizes the need to facilitate transit options and pedestrian mobility around the NNMC campus. The suggestions of an elevator and pedestrian underpass to link the NNMC campus to the Medical Center Metro Station and the west side of Rockville Pike are illustrative. The Navy's efforts in this area are also evidenced by the hiring of a Transportation Management Coordinator and the pledge to review and update NNMC's Transportation Management Plan as part of the Master Plan process.

Notwithstanding these positive changes, HHMI remains concerned that the proposed traffic mitigation measures in the FEIS are largely piecemeal and lack details. As expressed in the letter of January 18, 2008, HHMI does not support mitigation measures that continue to encourage the use of the local area roadway system. Such measures

Thomas R. Cech, Ph.D.
President

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